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*For Immediate Release...*

## *Corrections News*

December 5, 2007

Governor Blunt will hold a 1 p.m. news conference at the Clay County Courthouse, where he'll be joined by Missouri Department of Corrections Director Larry Crawford and other Department officials.

From 3-5 pm, Missouri Probation and Parole District 19 at 910 Kent in Liberty will hold an open house, which will be open to the news media.

"We realize that government works best through collaboration with local law enforcement agencies, prosecutors and judges."

Director Larry Crawford

### Department to Participate in 'Capital for a Day' in Liberty

Fulfilling his pledge to allow Missourians to communicate directly with state government officials, Governor Matt Blunt and leaders from 16 state departments will hold the second 'Capital for a Day' today in Liberty.

During Capital for a Day, Director Crawford, Probation and Parole (P&P) staff and local law enforcement will be available to meet with Clay County area residents. The Department has established a strong relationship with Clay County authorities in its public safety efforts.

"We realize that government works best through collaboration with local law enforcement agencies, prosecutors and judges," said Crawford. "For example, District 19 staff recently assisted Clay County authorities with a successful sting to arrest drug traffickers. That can only happen with strong networking systems and open communications. Our staff communicates regularly with Liberty-area law enforcement agencies, and District 19 has a court liaison who works directly with the Clay County Prosecutor's Office and the courts."

P&P District 19 staff helped law enforcement with "Operation Bad Candy," a sting to arrest suspected drug traffickers. The district office helped confirm addresses of offenders under supervision and provided insight into special conditions of probation or parole, which allowed law enforcement to conduct searches.

District 19 is also involved in the Clay County Drug Court, which provides services to individuals with severe substance abuse issues. P&P works with court personnel and substance abuse treatment providers to help clients address their drug problem and become successful, tax-paying citizens. Only one graduate of the Clay County Drug Court has recidivated, a record Crawford called phenomenal. The drug court was established in 2002.

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